
Lynne C. Lancaster. *Parthian Influence on Vaulting in Roman Greece? An Inquiry into Technological Exchange Under Hadrian*

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**Electronic version**

URL: <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/40545>

DOI: 10.4000/abstractairanica.40545

ISSN: 1961-960X

Publisher:

CNRS (UMR 7528 Mondes iraniens et indiens), Éditions de l'IFRI

Printed version

Date of publication: 1 December 2013

ISSN: 0240-8910

Electronic reference

Carlo Lippolis, « Lynne C. Lancaster. *Parthian Influence on Vaulting in Roman Greece? An Inquiry into Technological Exchange Under Hadrian* », *Abstracta Iranica* [Online], Volume 32-33 | 2013, document 181, Online since 01 July 2016, connection on 05 October 2020. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/40545> ; DOI : <https://doi.org/10.4000/abstractairanica.40545>

This text was automatically generated on 5 October 2020.

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- 1 In the second century CE, the so-called “pitched brick” vaulting – a technique developed in Egypt and the Near East as early as the third millennium BC – appeared for the first time in Roman architecture in Greece and then spread to Asia Minor. It eventually became a common vaulting technique in Byzantine architecture. The sites of Athens, Eleusis, Dion, Gortyn and Argos are examined to analyze this technique and its variants. The appearance in Greece of Parthian-inspired vaulting techniques – probably introduced by military building experts – during the Hadrianic period should, the author suggests, be examined in relation to the earlier Parthian War under Trajan and the contacts between Rome and the Parthian kings, in particular the new palaces of these kings during the first century CE.

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